



BROOKINGS
municipal utilities

525 Western Ave. • PO Box 588
Brookings, S.D. 57006
(605) 692-6325

Swiftel

C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

415 4th Street • PO Box 588
Brookings, S.D. 57006
(605) 692-6325

May 15, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 01-309
HAC Digital Wireless Telephones

Fifth Semi-Annual Report

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Brookings Municipal Utilities d/b/a Swiftel Communications ("Swiftel") is the licensee of Stations WPOI260 (A2-Block – partitioned from the Minneapolis – St. Paul MTA) and WPQL803 (B2-Block – partitioned from the Des Moines-Quad Cities MTA) in the broadband Personal Communications Service. This report is submitted pursuant to the requirements of Paragraph Nos. 89 – 91 of the Commission's *Report and Order* (WT Docket No. 01-309), FCC 03-168, released August 14, 2003 ("*R&O*").

By way of background, Swiftel is a small, Tier III Commercial Mobile Radio Service licensee, as defined in the Commission's E-911 *Order to Stay*, FCC 02-210, released July 26, 2002. Swiftel's wireless network employs a CDMA air interface and is configured to operate as part of the Sprint PCS nationwide network. The company currently markets a total of twenty-one (21) models of digital wireless handsets. Of these, it is our understanding that twelve (12) have achieved an M3 rating or better under ANSI Standard C63.19.

To achieve compliance with the Hearing Aid Compatibility ("HAC") requirements of the *R&O*, Swiftel is at the mercy of the handset manufacturers to develop and market HAC-compliant digital wireless handsets. As a small, Tier III wireless carrier, Swiftel has no influence over the product development and distribution decisions of wireless handset manufacturers; and the Company must rely on the manufacturers to develop and test HAC-compliant digital wireless handsets for use on Swiftel's network.

Given the foregoing, the information requested by the Commission is identified as follows:

Item 1 -- Digital Wireless Phones Tested: None. As described above, Swiftel is a small carrier that is not involved in the handset development or testing process. The Company will rely on testing performed by the handset manufacturers.

Item 2 -- Laboratory Used: None. *See* Response to Item 1.

Item 3 -- Test Results For Each Phone Tested: Not applicable. *See* Response to Item 1.

Item 4 -- Identification Of Compliant Phone Models and Ratings According To ANSI C63.19: Swiftel is currently marketing twelve (12) CDMA digital wireless handset models that have achieved an M3 rating or better under ANSI Standard C63.19. These handset models include the following:

LG LX125
LG LX225
LG LX350
Motorola c290
Samsung SPHA840
Samsung SPHA880
Sanyo SCP200
Sanyo SCP2300
Sanyo SCP3100
Sanyo SCP5600
Nokia 6016i
UTStarcom CDM-120

Item 5 -- Report On The Status Of Product Labeling: Swiftel is not involved in product labeling or the development of labeling standards. However, we are aware that some confusion may arise regarding the handset labeling standards contained in the 2001 and draft 2005 version of the C63.19 standard, which specify different letter designations for HAC compliance. While the 2001 version of the C63.19 standard uses a "U" rating for radiofrequency (RF) immunity and a "UT" rating for acoustic coupling, the 2005 version uses labeling that is consistent with the switches on hearing aids (*i.e.*, specifying "M" for Microphone and "T" for T-Coil). Accordingly, all compliant handsets offered by Swiftel will be labeled with the "M" and "T" ratings associated with the 2005 draft version of the ANSI technical standard, as appropriate.¹

All of the HAC-compliant handset models that Swiftel currently sells have been appropriately labeled on the outside of the box and a printed insert or user manual addendum has been included inside the box describing the HAC functionality of the product.

¹ See In the Matter of Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones, *Order on Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 36 CR 190, 20 FCC Rcd 11221 at ¶¶ 33-36 (2005).

Item 6 -- Report On Outreach Efforts: Swiftel has developed a hearing aid compatibility information sheet to assist hearing impaired customers in selecting current model phones and accessories that are most suitable to their needs. This information sheet will also serve to educate Swiftel's employees and retail sales force about HAC-related issues and possible solutions. Swiftel also plans to coordinate its HAC outreach efforts with those implemented by Sprint PCS.

Item 7 -- Information Related To Retail Availability of Compliant Phones: We are aware of at least twelve (12) CDMA handset models that are commercially available and that meet a M3 rating under ANSI Standard C63.19. We also understand that wireless phone manufacturers soon plan to make handsets available that test to a rating of T3 or T4 per ANSI C63.19-2005. The higher the "T" rating, the less likely the hearing aid user will experience interference when the hearing aid is set in the telecoil mode while using a wireless phone.

Once T-Coil handsets become commercially available, Swiftel will work with Sprint PCS to ensure that it has a variety of HAC-compliant handset models available for its current and potential subscribers to choose from.

Item 8 -- Information Related To Incorporating Hearing Aid Compatibility Features Into Newer Models Of Digital Wireless Phones: The incorporation of HAC features into newer models of digital wireless telephones will be accomplished by the handset manufacturers.

Item 9 -- Any Activities Related To ANSI 63.19 Or Other Standards Work Intended To Promote Compliance With The Requirements Of The Commission's Report and Order: None. Swiftel is a small carrier that is not involved in standards development.

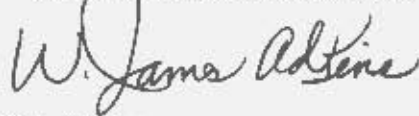
Item 10 -- Total Numbers Of Compliant And Non-Compliant Phone Models Offered As Of The Date Of This Report: As noted above, Swiftel currently offers twenty-one (21) different models of CDMA handsets. According to the manufacturer, at least twelve (12) of these handsets meet an M3 rating under ANSI Standard C63.19.

Item 11 -- Any Ongoing Efforts For Interoperability Testing With Hearing Aid Devices: None. Swiftel is a small carrier that is not involved in handset interoperability testing with hearing aid devices.

For further information concerning participation by Sprint PCS in handset testing and the standards development process, the Filer directs the Commission's attention to the status report that will be filed in WT Docket No. 01-309 by participants in the ATIS HAC Incubator program. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact John Prendergast or Cary Mitchell of the law firm of Blooston, Mordkofsky, Dickens, Duffy & Prendergast. Either may be reached by calling (202) 659-0830.

Respectfully submitted,

**BROOKINGS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES D/B/A
SWIFTEL COMMUNICATIONS**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. James Adkins", written over the printed name.

Jim Adkins
Technical & Network Operations Manager